



Recycling Lines

Electronic Newsletter

May-June 2007

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Environmental Enhancement

P.O. Box 1105, Richmond, Virginia 23218 (804) 698-4029 Fax (804) 698-4224.

DEQ's Community Involvement Initiative: The Department of Environmental Quality is dedicated to helping the public better understand DEQ's role in protecting the environment, and to involving the public more effectively in environmental decision making.

Please note our new P.O. Box and Zip Code .

Welcome to Recycling Lines, We hope that some of this information is helpful to you in your programs, and hope you'll help us with news from your area related recycling. Let us know by sending this information to Steve Coe at gscoe@deq.virginia.gov.

Arlington Residents Green Living Challenge

Arlington County and Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment are challenging their residents to a living green contest that will run through October 31, 2007.

Arlington has created a checklist for citizens to mark what they are already doing and what they will do differently in 2007. For each household that receives 100 points (out of a possible 190), the residents will receive certification for being a green household.

Neighborhoods are also encouraged to register and participate with a contest to see which neighborhood will be the greenest in the fall.

To read more about the Arlington Green Living Challenge and view the residential and neighborhood checklists, go to: <http://www.arlingtonenvironment.org/greenchallenge/index.htm> or contact Ms. Elenor Hodges, Executive Director of Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment, 703-228-6427 or office@arlingtonenvironment.org

School Recycling Initiative

This year the Virginia Recycling Association (VRA) will be working on a school recycling initiative where the goal is to have every school in the state recycling by 2010.

The Virginia Recycling Association and the Virginia Office of Environmental Education are conducting a needs assessment. Please complete the following online survey to help us inventory Virginia school recycling programs and provide services that will assist your schools in protecting Virginia's environment.

<http://vrarecycles.org/survey/index.php?sid=3>

Contact Erica Trout, VRA Association Manager at vra@vrarecycles.org

One Cartridge Can Make a Difference

-That is the slogan of the Recycle4.kids.org which kicked off a recycling fund raising program that protects the environment and can help children's charities or provide a fund raising opportunity for your organization.

Recycle4kids.org will send you a collection bin. You can download free marketing materials and a pre-paid mailing label from their website.

For more information go to www.recycle4kids.org or contact Jena Lind Rana-Isidro at (323) 924-9577.

Did You Know?

- ✓ The application to apply for FY 2008 litter and Recycling grants is available by going to <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/recycle/forms.html>. The application **MUST** be postmarked by **June 30, 2007** in order to qualify for grant funds. The Performance and Accounting report **MUST** be postmarked by **August 31, 2007** to qualify for grant funding.
- ✓ The Central Virginia Waste Management Authority (CVWMA) held six electronics e-cycling events in April and one in May. More than 600 people participated in the collections which netted 60,000 pounds of equipment.
- ✓ Contact Bernard B. Harris at 804-359-8413 or bharris@cvwma.com
- ✓ On Earth Day (April 22, 2007) Volunteers from the EPA greeted metro rail commuters between 7 and 9 a.m. and encouraged commuters to dispose of their unwanted newspapers in the recycling bins near the entrances of the stations rather than putting them in the trash. Last year, Metro recycled 2,400 tons of newspapers which equates to approximately 400,000 pounds per month. Contact Cassandra Graves at (202) 962-1365 or cgraves@wmata.com

Thermostat Collections are on the Rise

The Thermostat Recycling Corporation reported that they collected more than 113,600 thermostats which contained over 1,080 pounds of mercury in 2006. This represents a 29.3 and a 32% increase over the collections from 2005.

Wholesalers or contractors that register with TRC will receive a protective storage bin for a one-time cost of \$25. When the bins are full, participants send the bins to TRC's recovery center where the mercury is removed.

TRC has focused on wholesalers and contractors to encourage them to recycle the mercury thermostats because they have the infrastructure to support an effective collection program.

There are many contractors in Virginia who participate in the TRC thermostat recycling program. For more information about the program, go to www.nema.org/trc or call Mark Kohorst, Executive Director at (703) 841-3249 or mar_kohorst@nema.org

Recycling Lines Continued

Congratulations Virginia Beach City Public Schools

Virginia Beach City Public Schools is a recipient of the 2007 Virginia Recycling Association Award for Excellence in the Government/Nonprofit category. Tidewater Fibre Corp nominated the school system to receive this award for its commitment to recycling.

The school system recycles an average of 123 tons a month. Each of the 4,500 classrooms has a recycling bin to collect paper products, aluminum, steel, plastics and glass. The schools employ 719 custodians in 87 schools who collect the recyclables.

The offices also recycle cartridges, light bulbs, and cafeteria products. The plastic milk jugs that are sold in the cafeterias are known as "chugs." The schools collect between 7000,000 and 800,000 chugs a month.

For more information about TFC's nomination of Virginia Beach City Public Schools, contact Nancie McClendon, the TFC Public Relations/Marketing Manager at (757) 543-5766 or nmcclendon@tfcrecycling.com

U.Va Students Educate Peers about Recycling

It costs U.Va \$66 per ton to dispose of trash and \$45 per ton to dispose of recycling after accounting for operating costs and revenue from selling recyclables. The University recycles nearly 45 percent of its waste. Over the past two years' U.Va saved approximately \$275,000 through its recycling program.

The U.Va Recycling members advertise the school's recycling program to incoming freshmen during summer orientation. They set up booths outside of the dining halls and hand out magnets and t-shirts and are available to explain to people the importance of recycling.

U.Va has a conservation advocacy program. Students involved in this program are responsible for monitoring the recycling bins in their dorms; attend a weekly house council meeting, and a biweekly meeting with the U.Va Recycling student employees. These students serve as conservation advocates and are liaisons between the student body and the U.Va recycling program.

In April, the Recycling team hosted a dumpster dive to bring awareness to how much is thrown away that can be recycled.

Chuck it 4 Charity is another recycling program where students are encouraged to donate non-perishable items, anything unwanted, but reusable. Items donated by the students are then given to non-profit organizations in the Charlottesville area.

Any student is welcome to visit the Recycling office where students can take anything that they need. Students donate binders, computer speakers, paper, etc.

For more information about U.Va's recycling programs, visit the student recycling page at:

<http://people.virginia.edu/~cng9r/studentpage/programs.htm> or contact Sonny Beale at (434) 982-5438 or bcb8s@Virginia.EDU

Race to Recycle

Motorola recently announced the Race to Recycle program for schools. The program is open to accredited K-12 schools. Each school can earn up to a maximum of \$21,000 a year. Motorola will provide a box and a mailing label for when the box is full. Motorola will also accept any brand of cell phone.

For more information, go to <http://www.racetorecycle.com/index.asp> or call (888) 390-6866.

Edible Landfills

Students in **Frederick County** got a good taste of trash while learning about recycling at Richard E. Byrd Middle School. Gloria Puffinburger, Manager of Solid Waste and Recycling in Frederick County, makes edible landfills with students to teach them about recycling and how items in a landfill are covered and sealed..

Ms. Puffinburger has been delivering the edible landfill presentation to students and adults for almost 10 years.

For more information about creating a successful edible landfill presentation, contact Gloria Puffinburger at (540) 665-5643 or gpuffinb@co.frederick.va.us

It Only Took One Class to Get a Recycling Program Started!

In November, 2006, Zane Schwitter's first-grade class at Ridge Elementary School in **Henrico County** started to recycle. Shortly thereafter, the whole school followed suit. As of April, 2007, the school has recycled approximately 3,000 pounds of paper and newspaper.

It started with an inquiry from a curious parent from Seattle. According to Lindsay Stone, the parent, recycling is mandatory in Washington. The principal and the school board were interested in pursuing a recycling program too.

Ms. Stone went to school each Friday, and the 1st grade class charted the amount of paper that they had collected in pounds. Soon, all 22 of the classes were collecting paper. In the spring, four fifth graders are selected each Friday to gather the paper from each classroom and weigh it and load it into parent volunteer's cars. The volunteers take turns taking the schools recycled items to a drop off location.

Since the recycling program has been so successful, the PTA is considering funding regular weekly pickups by a contractor next year which will also allow them to recycle more types of materials.

For more information, contact Steve Yob, the Recycling Manager for Henrico County at (804) 727-8770 or solidwaste@co.henrico.va.us

Fun and Interactive Recycling Websites

In the spring, Earth 911 launched an e-cycling website called Gcycle.org which targets 18 – 34 males to encourage them to e-cycle. Visitors to the website can key in their zip codes and find e-cycling resources in their areas.

Go to: <http://www.gcycle.org/#>

Keep America Beautiful has also launched a website using KAB man. KAB man talks about recycling. There is also a game to teach people what can and cannot be recycled.

Go to: <http://www.kabman.org/>

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